



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Little Blue
Trace Trail**
Missouri



Little Blue Trace Trail

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Closure Notice: A bridge along the Little Blue Trace Trail, located just north of M-78 is closed for repairs through 2026. Please check



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Located outside of bustling Kansas City, this beautiful, partially paved, 18.7-mile riverside pathway is a favorite for locals and visitors alike. Unlike many of the rural trails that you find in Missouri, the Little Blue Trace Trail runs through several busy suburbs of Kansas City, causing the corridor itself to be relatively populated at all times of day. The trail is composed of two distinct sections, a 15-mile northern section, and a shorter southern section, with each end at the Little Blue Trace County Park.

About the Route

The southern 2.5-mile section of the trail runs primarily through a section of Little Blue Trace Park and is located just about 3 miles south of the longer northern section. Like the southern section, this portion of the trail also meanders alongside the Little Blue River and through another aptly-named section of the Little Blue Trace Park before reaching its southernmost terminus along S Noland Rd.

Three miles north, the southern trailhead of the northern section is not marked with signage and there is no parking. However, 3.7 miles north, trail users can find parking in a bustling shopping and dining area called Hartman Heritage Center, located off S. Little Blue Parkway just north of I-70.

The trail has excellent picnic and bathroom amenities all along the way, and there are several strategically placed emergency call buttons should trail users find themselves needing help.

Lined with yellow wildflowers in the summer, the trail passes under several old train trestles and more modern overpasses. At mile marker 7, be sure to stop for a picture at a small waterfall. Here trail users may even catch a glimpse of a pair of resident snapping turtles.

Trail users should take caution because a couple of times on the trail, visitors will have to make a steep climb up to a main road where a brief off-road paved path takes trail users back to the trail via a fairly steep drop-off with turns. The trail is plenty wide and nicely paved and maintained in each of these instances, but it is still important to be careful of your speed.

The trail heads north for 15 miles alongside the Little Blue River until reaching its northern endpoint in another section of Little Blue Trace County Park near E Blue Mills Rd.



Little Blue Trace Trail

Missouri

States: Missouri

Counties: Jackson

Length: 18.7miles

Trail end points: E Old Blue Mills Rd.
(Independence) to S Noland Rd. (Kansas City)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline
Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Little Blue Trace Trail runs between S Noland Rd. (Kansas City) and E Old Blue Mills Rd. (Independence), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- 4000 S Little Blue Pkwy (Independence)
- 3056 Necessary Rd (Independence)

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.

